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May 7, 2017

The Honorable Sean Stackley
Acting Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Acting Secretary Stackley:

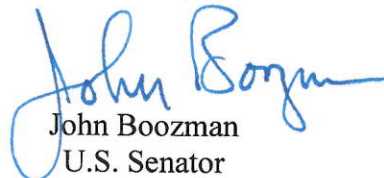
I am writing to request your support and leadership to strengthen the Navy's ongoing research program on Social Networks and Computational Social Science. Social networks analysis is an important tool for combatting terrorism, and extramural research is needed to maintain excellence in this rapidly evolving and dynamic arena.

It is my understanding that the Office of Naval Research program on Social Networks Analysis supports defense planners who require a comprehensive understanding of social networks in order to create effective strategies to control and contain activities of extremists and terrorist groups. The program develops models and analysis tools required for understanding the flows of expertise, funds, information, goods and materials. These models and analytical tools are also required to understand the command and control architectures, and communication tactics of terrorist organizations as well as to develop effective strategies for the containment and disruption of terrorist activities.

Congress strongly supports the Navy's research efforts in this rapidly evolving area of social networks and appropriated additional funds in Fiscal Year 2017 for that purpose under Navy Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Line #8, Warfighter Sustainment Applied Research.

I thank you for your time and attention on this program and request that you keep me informed on extramural research activities under the Navy's Social Networks and Computational Social Science program.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
U.S. Senator

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